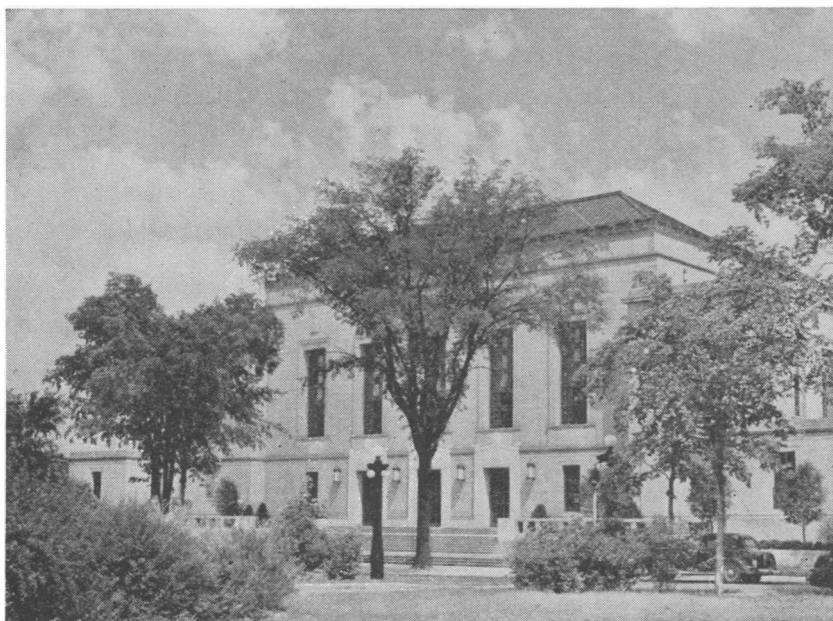


# PROCEEDINGS OF THE FORTY-THIRD ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Held at Ann Arbor, Michigan, May 29-30-31, 1941

## MINUTES

THE ANNUAL MEETING turned out to be a notable one and the Association was fortunate to be able to hold its sessions in such an atmosphere of scholasticity as will be found at the University of Michigan. You cannot meet in Ann Arbor without meeting the University of Michigan. To be sure the introduction will be unobtrusive but none the less per-



RACKHAM BUILDING, ANN ARBOR

suasive. When you find yourself in a hotel, it is as the guest of the University. Moreover, the cordiality of the place, which looks like a pleasant old town nestling in the trees until you discover that every tree is partly hiding a noble building dedicated to learning, is such that a professor of astronomy is likely to introduce himself to you on the off

chance that you may be learned too. So it is all very delightful and after a day or two you are apt to think you belong to the place or to wish you did.

The meeting was called to order in the theatre of the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies at 10:00 A.M., May 29, with the President in the Chair and in the presence of more than one hundred members and a number of invited guests. The Chairman introduced the first speaker, Dr. William W. Bishop, as follows:

*The Chairman:* Looking back over the history of our Association, one cannot fail to be impressed with the solidity of its foundation. Its membership growth has been steady and sustained. Its financial condition is excellent and its future is assured. We gather today under most favorable circumstances in this scholarly atmosphere and it is with a warm feeling of anticipation that I am privileged to open our 43rd meeting in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Like a mother of my acquaintance who had some difficulty in recalling the names of her fifteen children, I should think that the guardian of the many books belonging to the University of Michigan might at times be in sore straits if required without warning to give a complete account of himself. His brilliant attainments in the library field have earned him a multitude of honors here and abroad, and his important and responsible positions in various associations and bodies having to do with improvement in library science are doubtless known to all of you.

It is an honor to introduce to you Dr. William Warner Bishop.

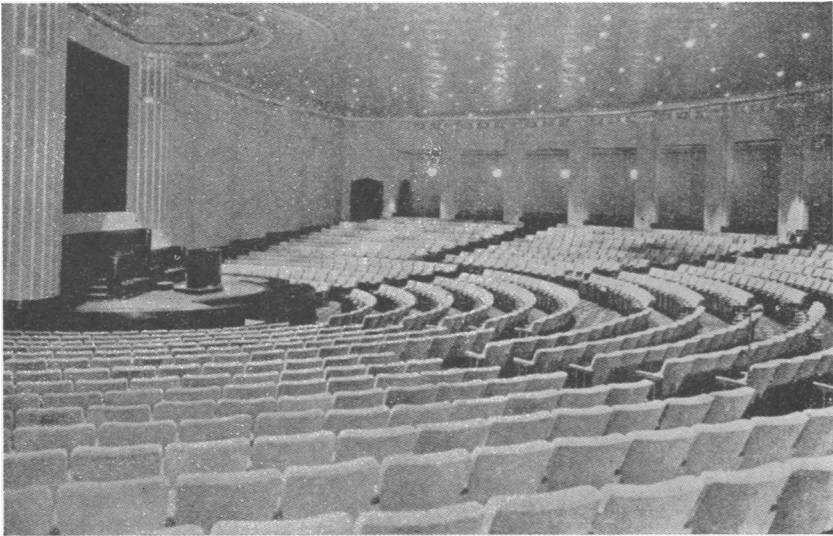
*Dr. Bishop:* I begin to feel like the oldest inhabitant, because I remember when this Association was organized. Very shortly after its first meeting, I met the gentleman who was responsible more than any other one person for its organization—Sir William Osler of Johns Hopkins. I followed its fortunes for many years, and I am happy to say the Medical Library of the University has taken active part in the Association.

It is my very pleasant duty to welcome you this morning, on behalf of the University Library, of which the Medical Library forms an important and constituent part. This afternoon I will have the privilege of speaking to you again, so this morning I shall confine myself to words of welcome. We are very glad to have you here and will be glad to have you see the University Library and anything else the University has to offer, and on behalf of my colleagues of the University Library and the Medical Library, I bid you a most hearty welcome to Ann Arbor.

*The Chairman:* Not so long ago at a tea party a young lady whom I know very well had a long and unrestrained conversation with a youthful looking gentleman whom she supposed to be a young instructor. Upon discovering that he was Dean of one of our great medical schools,

she protested in her confusion that she had supposed all Deans to be sober and bearded old men, pointing out as an example an internationally famous old gentleman, well known to be 81 years of age. You are now to hear from a Dean, a native of Michigan, and if he does not conform to my friend's description, it cannot be helped and you must bear it. When I was a medical student, I was much in awe of the Dean who was always preoccupied except when I was about and who always saw me when I didn't want to be seen. Now I have lost this fear and with a clear conscience I take pleasure in introducing to you Dr. Albert Carl Furstenberg, the distinguished Dean of the Medical Faculty of the University of Michigan.

*Dr. Furstenberg:* Members of the Medical Library Association:



6

LECTURE HALL, RACKHAM BUILDING  
(Where the sessions were held)

You are honoring us with your presence here today, and we hope that you will find enough of interest on our campus to repay you, at least in part, for having selected Ann Arbor for your meeting place this year. Your attendance is an inspiration and a challenge to us—an inspiration to further more fruitful research in medical history and a challenge to meet and solve some of the interesting problems in this field.

In welcoming you, I should like to say a few brief words about our Medical School. We have a student body of 476 students. Approximately two thirds of our students come from the state of Michigan and one third from widely separated regions of the United States and several foreign countries. Eight per cent of our students are women. We find

that if this group gets below 5 per cent, it is overruled by the men, and if it gets above 10 per cent, the women dominate the picture.

About half of our freshmen live in the Victor C. Vaughn dormitory for men, and we hope to have you visit this building while you are here. Here are maintained conditions conducive to health and study, and a social atmosphere that will help the student meet the disciplines of the medical profession later in his career.

You will find in any of our laboratories some interesting research in progress. We believe we have a great many faculty members who are making important observations. From these observations theories are derived; then by careful experimentation the theories are reduced to facts and then comes the job of putting these facts into practical usage. You will find all these phases of research in progress.

In addition to undergraduate medical education, we have provisions for postgraduate study. We believe there should be no line of demarcation between undergraduate and postgraduate work. There are facilities in University Hospital for both. Men who have spent five years since graduation studying here leave our institution and go to various parts of the country to practice medicine, surgery, and the various specialties. They are highly trained and skilled practitioners of medicine who maintain leadership in their respective communities.

I should like to call attention to our University Hospital. In that institution you will find that the practice of medicine is not the routine variety encountered in physicians' offices. Nearly every patient is an obscure medical or surgery problem that taxes the skill and strength of our staff physicians and research workers. In this institution there are 1441 beds, and 250 doctors. Last year 30,000 patients were treated. Each month 14,000 patients register in the Out-Patient Clinic. Over 10,000 operations were performed last year. So you see it is a rather large institution, and one in which you will find a great many points of interest in the various departments.

While here I hope that you will have the opportunity to visit our two Medical Schools on the campus, the Victor C. Vaughn dormitory for men, the Hospital, our Library, and many other places of interest which can be found in the University.

Again I should like to say that we are greatly honored by your presence. On behalf of the Medical Faculty, I should like to extend a very hearty welcome to all of you.

*The Chairman:* There is a gentleman here today who has been in Ann Arbor longer than I have been in the Army. His distinguished career as a pioneer in the study of dental pathology, as a teacher, administrator, and author, like good wine, needs no bush. He has so many honors and he is so many things that I do not need to introduce

him further. It is a pleasure to present to you Dr. Russell Wilfred Bunting, the distinguished professor of Oral Pathology in the University of Michigan.

*Dr. Bunting:* Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am sorry that I couldn't be here to hear what my predecessors have said. I just arrived in the city after spending three days hearing the leading lights in the country say what we should do about nutrition, while I worried about getting back in time to welcome the members of the Medical Library Association in behalf of our Dental School to this meeting, and to say we are so pleased you are holding it here.

I know Doctor Bishop and Dean Furstenberg have said very nice things about how worth while you are, but I wonder if I might say to you that I think you are very fortunate. It has always seemed to me that librarians as a rule are the happiest people I know. They belong to the small but enviable class of human beings who are engaged in a vocation they love and who find happiness in their work. Theirs is a most altruistic calling, and one in which much satisfaction is to be derived. They live in an atmosphere of books in which are recorded the thoughts, the aspirations, and the ideals of people of all ages. The wisdom and philosophy of the sages are at the command of the librarian. This is a profession which is not stimulated by the rules of barter or trade. The librarian has nothing to sell.

It is the privilege of the librarian to lead students into the highways and byways of literature and to help them attain their highest success in pursuit of knowledge. To you who, from choice, follow such a life of altruistic service must come satisfaction in such a service. On the choice of such a life you are to be congratulated.

There are no specialists more needed than those who have specialized in the literature of dentistry. We owe a debt of gratitude to pioneers in the field of library science in this University. Miss Bowler, working with Dr. Ward on a five-year-period grant of the Carnegie Foundation, built our library to a high state of excellence, and Miss Hilda Rankin, with her gracious spirit of helpfulness and personal charm, made the library of the Dental School more available and attractive to students and faculty alike. The value of this service is incalculable.

No profession can advance or continue to progress without a compilation of pertinent literature. Dentistry has a literature all its own, but it also draws from and is dependent on a wide variety of sciences. It is a comparatively young profession, but its beginnings are entwined with those of other sciences. Hippocrates and Isocrates were interested in the teeth and their diseases. In their dissertations they discussed these diseases and suggested therapeutic treatments which are interesting from a historical point of view, though of no great practical value.

Modern dentistry is but in its infancy. Its most important literature is confined to the most recent publications. In the professional journals and periodicals have been recorded the growth of the science. Books on dentistry are few in comparison, but in the publications which are increasing in number during recent years are articles devoted to diseases and abnormalities of the mouth and the surgery involved in the dental practice. Diseases of the mouth are quite different from those affecting other parts of the body and the means of treating them are consequently different in character. The literature of dentistry is highly specialized and technical in nature, though many of the recent writings are not wholly technical. An increasing number of research papers have appeared in which means of treating oral diseases are discussed.

As I have mentioned, dentistry is closely entwined with the other sciences, and in the study of dental problems it is often necessary to go far afield into the literature of related subjects. Certain sciences such as anthropology, endocrinology, clinical medicine, physics, crystallography, and even fine arts, have their contribution to make to the field of dentistry. The librarian who wishes to guide dental students on problems in that field must have access to the literature of the engineering sciences, biological sciences, and the fine arts.

The statement that dentists as a class are not readers has been too true. This situation, fortunately, is being remedied. Increasing library assignments are being given to dentistry students, and in all courses use of the library is encouraged. Postgraduate courses are often based on library research. Dentists are now learning to read, and are keen for direction in searching the field for solutions to their problems. They need help—students and dentists alike. They need your assistance in discovering the contributions to the subject. Much of the information being of questionable value, they also need help in determining what should be given weight and what should be passed over or disregarded. Many problems have not been definitely solved, and much literature of a controversial nature is frequently the result.

Too much is written by those who have not had sufficient personal contact with the problem to qualify them to make a scientific contribution to the study which may be accepted as factual and conclusive. These swivel-chair researchers may offer theories with no basis of fact which are far from scientific but sometimes look all too convincing on the printed page. You have all heard such statements as: "Dental caries is caused by malnutrition and may be prevented by dietary control"; "sugar in concentrated form is not harmful to the teeth"—have you ever heard that? Such statements, often over the signature of an eminent medical scientist who perhaps has had no personal contact with the subject under discussion, have a confusing and disturbing effect. Unless

someone evaluates the literature, there will be little benefit to the practitioner in the reading.

I believe that your co-operation with students is invaluable in the selection of authoritative literature. There is a great need for more libraries, and for more librarians who are interested in dental literature and the assistance and guidance of those who require dental library facilities.

And now on behalf of the Dental School of the University of Michigan, I wish to welcome you to Ann Arbor. We hope you will find time to visit us and to inspect our library, of which we are indeed very proud.

*The Chairman:* Last year your President hinted that the annual address, which custom decrees to be necessary, is somewhat of a trial on opening day. At the risk of being unfrocked, but as a well earned and no doubt delightful surprise for you, he has moved over to take his chances on the regular professional program tomorrow. This establishes no fast bound precedent and certainly when new policies and important departures are in need of support, an annual address as such may well be of value, despite the pleasantries that it has evoked.

Without further explanation then, let me undertake to make reply to the warm and courteous greetings from those who have just bidden us welcome. Well regulated habit inclines one to make known to his hosts that the company for whom he is the spokesman are enjoying their visit. A glance at the faces in the audience and the remembrance of our happy acceptance of your invitation of a year ago convinces me that a formal expression of appreciation is unnecessary.

In acknowledging with many thanks your hospitality, we all of us wish to pay a deserved tribute to this great University which was founded 100 years ago and whose medical school approaches the century mark. It has a long and honorable record of liberalism in the education of women having opened its doors to them in 1870, indeed it has been in the educational forefront in every way—and perhaps I should include football among the Arts and Sciences—for many decades.

The University has an enviable record in the library world. Its William L. Clements Library of American History is one of the greatest collections of its kind in existence. Its libraries total nearly three quarters of a million volumes. We are fortunate to be able to meet in such an atmosphere as is provided here. The very name Ann Arbor woos us. If they had so wished, could Ann Allen and Ann Rumsey have chosen any surer remembrance in perpetuity than lies in the name itself?

So you may be sure, Dr. Bishop and Dr. Bunting and Dean Furstenberg, we are full of joy to be here with you and so many others. We know how hard the Committee and especially Dr. Weller and Miss Biethan have worked, and we thank you again for the fortunate oppor-

tunity that has made it possible to be in Ann Arbor for the 43rd meeting of the Association.

### *Business Meeting*

The chairman then announced the opening of the *business meeting* which began at 10:30 A.M.

The report of the Executive Committee was presented by the chairman, Miss Mary Louise Marshall. It was voted to accept this report as read. This was followed by the report of the Secretary, Miss Anna C. Holt. This report also was accepted as read.

The Treasurer's report, read by Miss Louise D. C. King, was then approved. Miss Lawrence read the report of the Exchange, which was approved without change. The report of the Membership Committee, tendered by Miss Williams, was accepted. Colonel Jones next read the report of the Finance Committee which was also accepted.

The report of the Publication Committee was read by Miss Holt, in the absence of Dr. Viets. (The discussion of this report will be found under the section of the minutes devoted to reports of officers and committees.)

The next report presented was that on the Periodical and Serial Publications, by Mrs. Cunningham. At the request of Mrs. Cunningham, Mr. Frankenberger briefly outlined shipping conditions affecting the delivery of foreign publications to the United States. While shipments are slow in arriving, there is comparatively little loss, and the whole outlook is encouraging. One member (unidentified) reported receipt within the last week of a shipment direct from Germany which made the 1940 files of German publications in the library practically complete. Another member reported files complete up to March 1941, with shipments arriving from Italy fairly regularly. Following this discussion, it was moved and seconded that Mrs. Cunningham's report be accepted. The motion was carried.

The business meeting then adjourned until the morning of Saturday, May 31. The Chairman then introduced Dr. Sanford V. Larkey of the Welch Memorial Library, Baltimore, who presented a paper upon "Organization for Defense." Following Dr. Larkey's paper, the meeting adjourned for luncheon at 12:30 to meet at 2:00 P.M.

At 2:00 P.M. the members again assembled at the Rackham School Building to hear the formal papers listed on the program, the first of which was a talk by Dr. W. W. Bishop on "Co-operation in Library Practice."

Mr. W. B. McDaniel, 2nd, of Philadelphia presented a paper on "Medical Library Problems as Reflected in the Association's *Bulletin* 1911-1941."

Mrs. Edith Dernehl of Milwaukee then read a paper on "When Does Search Become Research?"

Miss Charlotte E. Coffman of Philadelphia next gave a talk on "Union Catalogs." She was followed by Miss Mildred E. Walter, who spoke on the subject of "Practical Points on Microfilms."

The last speaker of the afternoon was Miss Heath Babcock presenting "The Subject Specialist."

The meeting then adjourned to enable the members to attend a tea given by Dr. and Mrs. C. V. Weller at their home, 1130 Fair Oaks Parkway. Adjournment for the day at 4:30 P.M.

### *Continuation of the Meeting*

On Friday morning, May 30, at 9:30 the meeting was again called to order in the theatre of the Rackham Building for the continuation of the professional program. The Chairman then vacated the Chair and was succeeded for the time by the Vice-President, Dr. Schlueter, during the reading of the President's address on "The Value of Special Collections in Medical Libraries."

This was followed by a talk on the part of Dr. Bruno Meinecke of the University of Michigan Faculty on "Collections at the University of Michigan."

The final presentation on the program for the morning was a talk by Dr. Frederick A. Collier of the University of Michigan Faculty on "The Last Contract of Alexis St. Martin," a hitherto unpublished chapter in the life of that famous human guinea pig.

The meeting then adjourned to inspect the Pilcher, Haas and Crummer Collections in the Medical Library of the University, in small groups. This was followed by an informal luncheon.

At two o'clock in the afternoon the meeting again opened to hear a paper by Mr. J. Christian Bay on "The Advent of Modern Surgery in Chicago." Mr. Bay not being present, the paper was presented in full by Miss Salmonsens of the John Crerar Library.

Dr. Cyrus C. Sturgis then presented "The History of Blood Transfusion" as an informal talk. In connection with his paper Dr. Sturgis had arranged an exhibit of the literature of blood.

On account of Dr. Mayer's absence, his paper on "A Collection of Arabic Medical Literature in the Army Medical Library" was read by title by Colonel Jones. The opening lines were read only, and these being in Arabic aroused curiosity as to the contents of the paper.

The final paper for the afternoon was by Dr. Carl V. Weller on "Source Materials for the History of Lead Poisoning." Dr. Weller had arranged an exhibit of the literature of lead poisoning.

The meeting then adjourned to attend a tea at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Furstenberg, additional hosts being Dr. and Mrs. Collier on Wallingford Road.

### *The Annual Banquet*

The same evening the annual banquet was held at the Michigan Union. About 125 guests sat down at eight o'clock. At the conclusion of a delightful dinner in most pleasant surroundings, Colonel Jones called Miss Sue Biethan to the "head table" (as the reporter feels bound to call it, even if some of the most important people decline to sit there), and presented her with a corsage.

Colonel Jones then introduced Dr. Frederick G. Novy, the speaker of the evening. Dr. Novy gave a delightful and most informal talk about his early days at the University with many allusions to library matters, and interspersed with the dry humor so characteristic of him. The meeting then adjourned for a visit to the William L. Clements Library at ten o'clock.

The visit to the Clements Library was a revelation and the talk by the Curator, Mr. Lloyd A. Brown, outlining its history and including a brief description of the contents was most inspiring. Many of the members were able to see and examine such rare documents as the original treaty of Ghent, Major André's last letter, correspondence of George and Martha Washington and many others.

### *The Final Session of the Meeting*

The final session opened on Saturday morning, May 31, at 9:00 o'clock in the Auditorium with the continuation of the business meeting.

The report of the Medical Library Handbook was read by Miss Janet Doe, and was unanimously approved.

Mr. T. P. Fleming read the report of the Committee on Public Documents. The report was accepted as read.

The Chairman then announced that the order of procedure called for *new business* and asked if any such was offered. The following discussion arose:

*Mr. Frankenberger:* The other day Dr. Larkey in his report gave us a great deal of very valuable and useful information. He is so close to the situation in obtaining information helpful to us that it seems to me it would be a fine service if it could be sent out to us in mimeographed form, so that we will know what is going on, what publications are coming out, and where to apply for them, rather than waiting for the list to appear in the *Bulletin*. It seems to me that that would be a good idea at a time like this when the time element is so important. Would it be possible for the Association to provide for the sending out of that information supplied by Dr. Larkey's committee to the member-

ship in that form? I would like to recommend that to the Executive Committee or hear a discussion on the suggestion.

*Dr. Larkey:* I do feel that a great many publications are coming out that are very important for medical libraries to have. Our own part of the activities wouldn't have all the information. I should think that the Army Medical Library could supply some good information and we could work together to arrange something along that line. There are certain publications coming out from time to time that you might not be able to get if you didn't get them right away. Dr. Fulton probably knows more about them than I do. I would like to hear from him.

*Dr. Fulton:* I have been following the publications having to do with medical defense appearing abroad—more particularly those from England. When I was in England in October I left a standing order with two of the larger booksellers in London to send everything, regardless of subject, that had any bearing on medical defense. It has been possible on this basis to receive things considerably before reviews appeared or before they were listed in journals. The National Research Council is making a point of sending lists of these titles to the *Bulletin*—one list has been published already—and of keeping members of the Association up-to-date through compiling lists whenever the *Bulletin* appears; that plus the great help we are receiving from the Army Medical Library with the listing of similar titles should keep us up-to-date as far as foreign publications are concerned.

*Colonel Jones:* It would be desirable if we could put out current weekly lists that could be released by the Research Council. These could be published within a week after they are received, and that would be the most prompt method of meeting the situation. In this way we could get the information to members very quickly. It could be put out in mimeographed form and mailed to you. I would be glad to help in any way possible. Of course it could not be printed at government expense. Maybe we could appeal to the *Journal of the A.M.A.* to print it every week.

*Dr. Larkey:* The *Journal of the A.M.A.* and *War Medicine* print such lists. *War Medicine*, I think, is the most important publication at the present time. They will list European, particularly English, publications ahead of anyone else.

*Question:* Dr. Larkey, would you repeat the names of publications our libraries should have?

*Dr. Larkey:* Certainly. There is the *Bulletin of War Medicine*, which is a very important thing to have. Then there is a weekly journal called *Defense*, and that is something many libraries will want to have. I also recommend the *U. S. Government Manual*, a very important reference book which has taken the place of a lot of other books. It is published

by the Information Service. The new edition came out in April. There are three editions a year, and the cost is seventy-five cents a copy.

*Mr. Frankenberger:* I question the advisability of publishing this kind of information on medical preparedness in the *A.M.A. Journal*. That journal has a wide circulation. It has a hundred thousand readers, and a lot of them would write for that sort of literature just because of its listing in that publication. It wouldn't necessarily be important to them. If the information is sent to the Medical Library Association members, it conveys it to a much smaller group that is definitely and vitally interested. I question the wisdom of publicizing it in such a widely circulated publication.

*Colonel Jones:* Do you wish to make a motion to that effect?

*Mr. Frankenberger:* No, but I wish something definite could be done about it. I don't know if it should be made as a motion or referred to the Executive Committee for recommendation. It might be that it could be managed through the Exchange.

*Miss Lawrence:* We have the Exchange list down to such a fine point now that one more sheet added would throw it into higher postage.

*Mr. Frankenberger:* Then I make a motion that the manner of disseminating information provided by the committee organized for medical defense be referred to the Executive Committee.

The motion was seconded and carried.

The report of the Committee on the American Standards Association was read by Miss Doe.

*Question:* I would like to ask what the considered opinion of the group was concerning journal abbreviations. I raise the question particularly in regard to border-line subjects, such as physics and physiology. We are always in trouble if we use, for example, the system of abbreviations adopted by the Surgeon General's Office, and since the World List of Scientific Periodicals covers not only medicine, but all other sciences as well, and since that list is being worked out in great detail to cover publications of all countries, did the committee consider the adoption of it?

*Miss Doe:* The International Standards Association recommends it and it has been adopted in many countries. We hadn't the time to consider it before the meeting and didn't want to be hurried into accepting it without due study. However, the committee is studying it and will bear in mind that whatever abbreviations are adopted must be intelligible to all libraries. We realize, for example, that "M" could stand for music just as well as for medicine. I think abbreviations in the World List were developed with just that view, and I am sure that any final list adopted in this country will certainly keep that in mind.

There was no further discussion of this report.

Dr. Larkey brought up the question of evaluation of South American publications available for exchange purposes. The motion was made, seconded, and carried, that this matter be referred to the Executive Committee for action as soon as possible.

*Mr. Frankenberger* made the motion that the Association give a rising vote of thanks to Miss Biethan and her committee, to Dr. and Mrs. Weller, to Dr. and Mrs. Furstenberg, to Dr. and Mrs. Collier, and all their colleagues in Ann Arbor, for making this Forty-third Annual Meeting so enjoyable and so successful in every way.

The response to this motion was unanimous.

### *Election of Officers*

The Chairman then called for the report of the Nominating Committee. The chairman of that committee submitted the following nominations:

For President: Miss Mary Louise Marshall, New Orleans, Louisiana.

For Vice-President: Dr. John F. Fulton, New Haven, Connecticut.

For Secretary: Miss Anna C. Holt, Boston, Massachusetts.

For Treasurer: Miss Bertha B. Hallam, Portland, Oregon.

For Member of Executive Committee (3 years): Miss Mildred E. Walter, Rochester, New York.

The report of the Nominating Committee was read, and since there were no further nominations from the floor, *Dr. Larkey* made the motion that: The Secretary be instructed to cast one ballot for the officers nominated by the committee. The motion was seconded and passed.

The statistics of the meeting were presented, showing 78 institutions represented from 25 states and Canada, and a total of 95 registrants.

### *The Next Annual Meeting*

The next order of business was the selection of a *meeting place* for 1942. The Secretary read invitations from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, from the University of Pittsburgh, and from the Libraries of Philadelphia. Miss Marshall presented an oral invitation on behalf of her institution, asking the Association to meet in New Orleans next year. During the balloting Colonel Jones gave an interesting informal talk on the new Army Medical Library building. The results of the balloting were then announced and the Chairman declared that the Association would meet in New Orleans in 1942, a large majority of the ballots having indicated this choice.

A motion for adjournment was made, seconded, and carried, and the 43rd Annual Meeting ended on the stroke of the gavel, 12:00 noon, May 31, 1941.